

and prosperity of the State; and it appeals powerfully to the sympathies, to the gratitude and to the christian instincts of the good and benevolent.

Let it not be said that this is not the time to act: *now* of all others is the most appropriate and the most important season for exertion in all the moral agencies of society.

Liberty and independence are not only preserved, but they are gained by moral power; it is this that sustains a people of inferior numbers against superior physical forces, for it creates and fosters that courage and those virtues which rise superior to all circumstances and which can be overcome only by the extermination of those to whom they belong.

Whatever tends to render home desirable increases the heroism and determination of those who defend it; and with a very large portion of the brave soldiers of the Confederacy the only stake in this struggle is the moral and social condition in which it is to leave their families.

But, besides all this, the demoralizing influence of war is great; and the very time to meet this tendency is while it is exerting its power.

We have an armed and active enemy not only on our borders, but in the bosom of every society; and if it would be an absurd and fatal stroke of policy in our generals to retire from the field, to wait till the armies of the national foe had completed their work, and were withdrawn, what shall be thought of the leaders in the moral world who deem it imprudent to meet the powers of darkness as long as they are armed for the conflict?

*Obstare principiis* is a maxim of wisdom more applicable to the domain of morals than to that of physical forces; and to withstand the beginnings of evil is the most effectual way to accomplish good.

Let it be added to all these considerations that a glowing patriotism marks such revolutions—enterprises intended to promote the public welfare are more readily appreciated by the masses—and the popular mind, roused to unusual energy,